

CAUSE NO. 201957573

	RECEIPT NO.	75.00 CO1
	******	TR # 73663127
PLAINTIFF: ESTATE OF HECTOR SALAS JR		In The 190th
vs. DEFENDANT: CITY OF GALENA PARKA V		Judicial District Court of Harris County, Texas
DEFENDANT: CITT OF GALLMA TAKE		190TH DISTRICT COURT
Eurgen's		Houston, TX
Marily ice Onlo	ETATION .	
THE STATE OF TEXAS County of Harris	1. X 1 1 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2	_
SEX ALEAN.	Ciei	
TO: GONZALES, BICK	ee line	ered Christopher E. Diazi Constable Christopher E. Harris County, Taxas
TO: GONZALES, RICK		eredE. Diazi Consulty, Texas
OR WHEREVER HE MAY BE FOUND	Delli	Helopher Haute Conny
2207 CLINTON DR GALENA PARK	TX 77547	Child # 2, Flat
Attached is a copy of ORIGINAL P		Precin
This instrument was filed on the 19t	h day of August 20	19 in the move Bened cause number
and court. The instrument attached d	escribes the claim	against you
		you or cur attorney do not file a
written answer with the District Cle	rk who issued this	citation by 10:00 a.m on the Monday
next following the expiration of 20	days after you were	served this citation and petition,
a default judgment may be taken agai	nst you.	Š
TO OFFICER SERVING:		0.16 Sunder my hand and
This citation was issued on 27 seal of said Court.	th day of August, 2	of all minder my mand and
car or bara cours.	OF HARRIS YND	Burger .
Issued at request of:	1,200	YN BURGESS, District Clerk
LEWIS, U. A.	- 121 Hari	s County, Texas
PO BOX 27353 HOUSTON, TX 77227		aroline, Houston, Texas 77002 Box 4651, Houston, Texas 77210)
Tel: (713) 570-6555	1/2 ((/N)	By: CHAMBERS, WANDA ULW//11312317
Bar No.: 24076511	Generated	by. Charlesto, maist com, collection
OFE	ICER/AUTHORIZED PER	SON RETURN
Came to hand at o'clockM	i., on@the day	of
	68	
Executed at (address)		in
County at	o'clockM.,	on the,
, by delivering to	4	defendant, in person, a
true copy of this Citation together		
(())		
attached thereto and I endorsed on a To certify which I affix my hand off	said copy of the Cit Ficially this	day of,,
10 Certify which I dilla in the second		
FEE: \$		
		ofCounty, Texas
	<u></u>	
	р	
Affiant	- ву	Deputy
WITTONC		
On this day,	return personally	, known to me to be the person whose appeared. After being by me duly sworn,
signature appears on the foregoing a he/she stated that this citation was	s executed by him/h	er in the exact manner recited on the
return.		
SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME,	on this day o	£
OHOLAT TO THE CODONADE ELECTION		
		Notary Public
		Motary rubiro

Constable Return of Individual

Cause #: 201957573

king #: 73663127

In the case of ESTATE OF HECTOR SALAS JR VS CITY OF GALENA PARK a CITATION and attached ORIGINAL PETITION was issued by the 190th Judicial District court HARRIS County, TX and came to hand on the 28 day of August, 2019 at 3:37PM to be delivered at 2207 Clinton Dr., Galena Park , Tx 77547 by delivering to: GONZALES, RICK

Attempted Service

(Attempted service at 2207 Clinton Dr, Galena Park, 1277547 unless otherwise noted.)

ζ.		ci vice at 2207				
Date	Time	Deputy Name	Agency	Service Attempt Type	Attempted Address	Remarks
8/30/2019	11:50:00 AM	Jesus Martinez	2	OF MANNET	Galena Park Tx	RECEIVED A TEXT FROM MS GABRILLE WITH THE LEWIS LAW GROUP SHE GAVE ME A HOME ADDRESS FOR DEFENDANT, RICHARD "RICK" GONZALES AT 8742 YVONNE DRIVE HOUSTON, TX. 77044 TRANSFER TO PCT. 3
8/29/2019	1:40:00 PM	Jesus Martinez		BAD ADDRESS	2207 Clinton Dr - Galena Park, Tx 77547	NO LONGER WORKS AT POLICE DEPARTMENT PLAINTIFF ATTORNEY AND SPOKE WITH MR. LEWIS ATTORNEY WHO I INFORMED OF THE BAD ADDRESS THAT HE TOOK MY PHONE AND WILL CALL ME TO GIVE ME A HOME ADDRESS.

NOT EXECUTED to the derendant: GONZALES, RICK

The information received as to the whereabouts of the said defendant being: 8742 YVONNE DRIVE HOUSTON, TX. 77044

Fee Due \$ 75.00

by Deputy Jesus Martinez - 82C02

Printed

Deputy Signature

Attempts:

Total Attempts:

2

2

Christopher Diaz, Constable Precinct #2 Harris County Texas

> 101 S Richey St, Suite C Pasadena Texas 77506

713.477.2766

Constable Return of Individual

Cause #: 201957573

Fracking #: <u>73663127</u>

In the case of ESTATE OF HECTOR SALAS JR VS CITY OF GALENA PARK a CITATION and attached ORIGINAL PETITION was issued by the 190th Judicial District court of HARRIS County, TX and came to hand on the 4 day of September , 2019 at 3:13PM to be delivered at 8742 YVONNE DR , HOUSTON , TX 77044 by delivering to: GONZALES, RICK

Attempted Service

(Attempted service at 8742 YVONNE DR, HOUSTON, 77044 unless otherwise noted.)

Date	Time	Deputy Name	Agency	Service Attempt Type	Attempted Address	Remarks
9/11/2019	8:20:22 AM	Tiffany Baines	3		HOUSTON TX	PER MR. RICHARD V. GONZALES D.O.B 01/18/1949 WHO ADVISED THAT HE DOES NOT KNOW RICK GONZALES AT ALL.
9/10/2019	7:34:00 AM	Tiffany Baines	3	NGANSWER/LEFT CARD	8742 YVONNE DR HOUSTON TX 77044	
9/9/2019	8:11:05 AM	Tiffany Baines	3	NO ANSWER/LEFT CARD	8742 YVONNE DR HOUSTON TX 77044	
9/9/2019	8:11:00 AM	Tiffany Baines		NO ANSWER/LEFT CARD	8742 YVONNE DR HOUSTON TX 77044	
8/30/2019	11:50:00 AM	Jesus Martinez	2	OTHER	Galena Park Tx	RECEIVED A TEXT FROM MS GABRILLE WITH THE LEWIS LAW GROUP SHE GAVE ME A HOME ADDRESS FOR DEFENDANT, RICHARD "RICK" GONZALES AT 8742 YVONNE DRIVE HOUSTON, TX. 77044 TRANSFER TO PCT. 3
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NOT EXECUTED to the defendant: GONZALES, RICK

The information received as to the whereabouts of the said defendant being:

	Constable Return of Individual
Cause #: <u>201957573</u>	Fracking #: <u>73663127</u>
Fee Due \$75.00	Sherman Eagleton, Constable Precinct #3
by Deputy Tiffany Baines - 3C82 Printed	Harris County Texas
n . s	701 Baker Road

Deputy Signature

Attempts:

Total Attempts:

Baytown Texas 77521 713.274.2530

Constable Return of Individual

Cause #: 201957573

Eracking #: <u>73663127</u>

In the case of ESTATE OF HECTOR SALAS JR VS CITY OF GALENA PARK a CITATION and attached ORIGINAL PETITION was issued by the 190th Judicial District court HARRIS County, TX and came to hand on the 28 day of August , 2019 at 3:37PM to be delivered at 2207 Clinton Dr , Galena Park , Tx 77547 by delivering to: GONZALES, RICK

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8/29/2019	1:40:00 PM	Jesus Martinez		BAD ADDRESS	2207 Clinton Dr - Galena Park, Tx 77547	NO LONGER WORKS AT POLICE DEPARTMENT PLAINTIFF ATTORNEY AND SPOKE WITH MR. LEWIS ATTORNEY WHO I INFORMED OF THE BAD ADDRESS THAT HE TOOK MY PHONE AND WILL CALL ME TO GIVE ME A HOME ADDRESS.

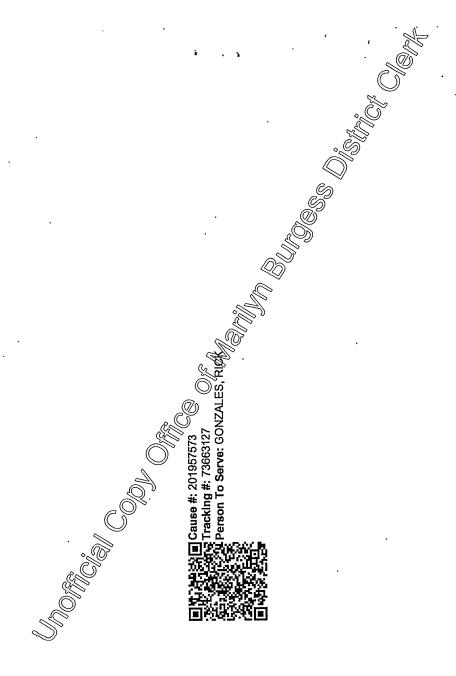
NOT EXECUTED to the detendant: GONZALES, RICK

The information received as to the whereabouts of the said defendant being: 8742 YVONNE DRIVE HOUSTON, TX. 77044

Fee Due \$			
by Deputy Jesus Ma	rtinez - 82C02		_
Printed			
Deputy Signature	Lesury	July	
A 444	\overline{V}		
Attempts:			
Total Attempts:	2		

Christopher Diaz , Constable Precinct #2 Harris County Texas

> 101 S Richey St, Suite C Pasadena Texas 77506 713.477.2766



2019-57573 / Court: 190

Marily Burgess - District Clerk Harris County
Envelope No. 38063818
By: Joshua Hall
Filed: 8/19/2019 10:24 AM

CAUSE NO.

ESTATE OF HECTOR SALAS, JR., §
HECTOR SALAS SR., as §
representative and individually, §
ANDREA SILVA individually, and
A/N/F for H.S., and A.S., CYNTHIA
MONTIEL A/N/F for E.S.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF

JUDICIAL DISTRICT

HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

THE CITY OF GALENA PARK, SCHIEF RICK GONZALES, and SCHOOLS 1-5

Defendant.

ORIGINAL PETITION

TO THE HONOR BLE JUDGE OF SAID COURT:

Comes now ESTATE OF HECTOR SALAS, JR., HECTOR SALAS SR., as representative and individually, ANDREA SILVA individually, and as next friend for H.S., and A.S., CYNTHIA MONTIEL as next friend for E.S., (collectively "Plaintiffs") complaining of THE CITY OF GALENA PARK, TEXAS ("Galena Park"); and OFFICER DOE files this, their Original Petition.

INTRODUCTION

- 1. Hector Salas Jr., the father of three, died November 30, 2018, in the City of Galena Park jail due to Galena Park failing to protect, and ignoring the medical and mental healthcare needs of Hector Salas, resulting in Sa suicide.
- 2. Hector was placed in custody because he was suicidal. His wife, Andrea Salva, called the police because he had taken a handful of pills.
- 3. He was taken to Ben Taub then released. She called them again the next day because he was still suicidal. The jaik noted he was suicidal upon intake.
- 4. A surveillance camera captured Salas' suicide attempts and suicide on video.
- 5. He was in the cell alone and for enough time to tear mattress fabric apart into thin strips.
- 6. He created a noise that he put around his neck on one end and the other on the jail cell door.
- 7. He was not successful initially because the mattress fabric strips could not support his weight and broke.
- 8. He was able to try again but was again unsuccessful.
- 9. He made a third suicide attempt, this time he created and used a much thicker mattress fabric strip.

- 10. He tied it to the jail cell door and then placed the open knot end around his neck.
- 11. He used toilet water to cover the floor to cause the floor to be slippery.
- 12. He was successful on the third attempt.
- 13. Jail surveillance cameras captured the incident.
- 14. Galena Park is withholding the video even after the Attorney General's initial ruling that it had to be released.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- U.S.C. § 1331 and 2201, D.U.S.C § 1983 and 1988, and the Fourth, Eighth, and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution, and supplemental jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1367(a), to hear Plaintiffs' federal law claims.
- 16. Venue is proper in this because the incidents at issue took place in Harris County, Texas.

PARTIES

- 17. Plaintiff, HECTOR SALAS, individually and as Representative of the Estate of Hector Salas Jr.
- 18. Plaintiff, ANDREA SILVA, individually and as next friend for H.S., and A.S.

- 19. Plaintiff, CYNTHIA MONTIEL, as next friend for E.Ş.
- 20. Defendant, CITY OF GALENA PARK, is and was at all times relevant to this action a governmental entity and is a person under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 and at all times relevant to this case acted under the color plaw and may be served with process wherever the mayor may be found.
- 21. Defendant, RICK GONZALES, is and was at all times relevant to this action is a person under 42 U.S.C. \$83 and at all times relevant to this case acted under the color of law and may be served with process wherever he may be found.
- 22. Defendants, DOES 15, is and was at all times relevant to this action is a person under 42 U.S.C. 1983 and at all times relevant to this case acted under the color of law and maybe served with process wherever he or she may be found.

ADDITIONAL FACTS

- 23. 31-year old Hector Salas Jr. was a father of three, a husband, son, brother, and beloved friend.
- 24. He died on November 30, 2018, in the City of Galena Park jail due to Galena Park failing to protect him, ignoring the medical and mental healthcare needs of Hector Salas.
- 25. Hector was in the custody of Galena Park because he was suicidal.

- 26. His wife, Andrea Salva, called the police because he had taken a handful of pills.
- 27. His wife made it abundantly clear that he had attempted suicide just before he was taken into custody, even saying his goodbyes through the gesture of leaving his personal effects to his family.
- 28. He was taken to Ben Taub then released, without observation or treatment.
- 29. She was forced to call Galena Park again the next day because he was still suicidal. His behavior was not usual:
- 30. Hector was taken into custody by Galena Park.
- 31. The jail noted that he was suicidal upon intake.
- 32. He was placed in a cell alone.
- 33. He was left alone for enough time to tear mattress fabric apart into thin strips.
- 34. He created a noose that he put around his neck on one end and the other on the jail cell door.
- 35. He tried to strangle himself.
- 36. He was not successful in strangling himself initially because the mattress fabric strips could not support his weight and broke.
- 37. He had time to try again but was again unsuccessful.

- 38. He had time to create and used a much thicker mattress fabric strip.
- 39. He had time to tie his newly created stronger noose strips to the jail cell door and then placed the open knot end around his neck.
- 40. He had time to glaze toilet water over the floor to be slippery.
- 41. He had time to make a third suicide attempt and was successful.
- 42. A surveillance camera captured Salas' suicide attempts and suicide on video.
- 43. According to the medical examiner, the manner of death is suicide by hanging:

A. HANGING:

The body is received with six segments of blue synthetic plastic-type material that have been praviously cut.

1. A 49 by 5 inch sheet bunched together with clear tope at one end and in the middle.

2. A 56 by 3 Onch sheet.

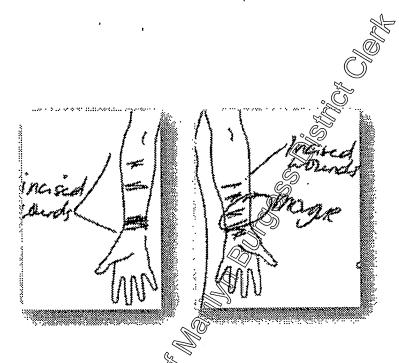
3. A 14 kg 3/2 inch strip with two knots.

4. A 17 inch strip ranging in width between 1/4 of an inch and 1/2 of an inch with multiple knots.

5. DB by 3/4 of an inch strip with one knot.

6. A 17-1/2 by 1/2 of an inch strip with one knot.

44. Hector Salas Jr. also had incised wounds on both arms from his wrist to his forearms noted and an additional indication of a previous suicide attempt, and more indication that his serious medical need was ignored.



45. Galena Park continued to withhold documents and video footage even after the Attorney General's initial ruling that it had to be released.

CLAIMS

CITY OF GALENA PARK 42 U. S. C. SECTION 1983 CONSTITUTIONAL VIOLATIONS OF HECTOR SALAS'S CIVIL RIGHTS

- 46. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference all of the preceding paragraphs.
- 47. Plaintiffs also bring claims for violations of Hector Salas's Fourth, Eighth and Fourteenth Amendment rights.

Failure to train its officers—an omission—led to a violation of the constitutional right

48. Galena Park and each defendant were acting under color of state law and,

therefore, is liable under 42 U.S.C. § 1983.

- 49. Galena Park is liable under Section 1983 because it deprived Hector Salas of constitutional rights provided by federal law that occurred under color of state law and were caused by its employees, government actors.
- 50. Hector Salas had a right under the Fourth, Eighth, and Fourteenth Amendments of the United States Constitution while incarcerated to be free from indifference to his medical and mental health needs.
- 51. Hector Salas's death while in custody was preventable.
- 52. Galena Park was indifferent to Hector Salas' serious medical needs, mental health needs and protection
- 53. Defendant Galena Park as a matter of policy, practice, custom and/or procedure did not have adequate staffing, had a practice and custom of not doing rounds, had a custom and practice of not checking to see if detention officers were doing rounds, and failed to provide and maintain adequate equipment to prevent suicide.
- 54. Defendant Galena Park failed to train and failed to adequately supervise its jail detention officers and employees and agents.
- 55. Prior to his death, Hector Salas did not receive adequate medical care for his risk of suicide, and symptoms.

56. His death was due to the acts and omissions of Galena Park and those acts and omissions violated his constitutional right to due process, to be free from unreasonable search and seizure; and right to adequate medical care under the constitution.

Failure-to-protect

57. Galena Park failed to properly and adequately train its officers to protect its inmates from the risk of serious harmon the form of self-inflicted suicide despite the obvious risk of harm, thereby failing to protect its inmates and deliberately indifferent to Hector's risk of harm.

Failure-to-supervise

58. Galena Park is not responsible based on Respondent Superior rather because it failed to properly supervise its officers in protecting its immates from the risk of serious harm in the form of self-inflicted suicide despite the known obvious risk of harm an immate like Hector Salas would pose to himself.

Deliberate indifference to serious-medical-needs

- 59. Galena Park's failure to supervise amounted to deliberate indifference to Hector Salas' medical needs
- 60. Galena Park denied Hector Salas medical care for his serious medical need, thereby resulting in the constitutional violation that caused his death.

Conditions of Confinement

- 61. Galena Park placed Hector Salas in a cell where he could not be observed by others could be alerted to prevent his death.
- 62. Galena park placed Hector Salas in a cell with plastic and other materials he could use to make a noose to assist in his suicide.

CHIEF RICK CONZALEZ

- 63. Chief Rick Gonzalez is not responsible based on Respondent Superior rather because he failed to properly supervise its officers in protecting its immates from the risk of serious harm in the form of self-inflicted suicide despite the known obvious risk of harm an impate like Hector Salas would pose to himself.
- 64. He further failed to train his subordinate officers on protecting inmates from serious harm.
- 65. Chief Gonzalez is and was at all times relevant to this action is a person under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 and at all times relevant to this case acted under the color of law as the chief of the Galena Park police department.

OFFICER DOES' CONSTITUTIONAL VIOLATIONS

Failure to Protect Claims

66. Protecting inmates from the risk of harm from others and themselves and

recognizing a serious medical, including mental health needs is required training for all jail officers.

- 67. Officer Doe would not be entirely responsible for Salas' death if the City of Galena Park failed to train her on inmate suicide prevention properly, or treatment of inmates with serious medical needs, mental health concerns, and protecting inmates like Hector Salas from a substantial risk of serious harm.
- 68. On November 30, 2018, it was well established" that a risk of suicide by an inmate, like this a serious medical need.
- 69. Officer Doe had individual specific knowledge of the threat of serious harm by suicide since his wife made it abundantly clear that he had attempted suicide just before he was taken into custody, even saying his goodbyes through the gesture of leaving his personal effects to his family.
- 70. Officer Des failed to check Hector Salas for a substantial length of time, a general risk that all prisoners in Hector's particular situation faced He should have been on suicide watch while he was awaiting transport to the Harris County Jail or provided mental health treatment.
- 71. Officer Doe should have training in suicide and mental health training, any lack of expertise or experience that might limit Officer Doe's ability to evaluate potential harm and thereby her failure to protec.

72. Despite the obvious risk she disregarded the risk she failed to provide even an essential response of checking on him at all.

WRONGFUL DEATH

- 73. Wrongful Death Statute The Plaintiffs incorporate by reference all preceding paragraphs of this Complaint as it set forth at length herein in this section.
- 74. The Plaintiffs bring this wrongful death action pursuant to the Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code § 71,004 (c). Pursuant to Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code § 71.002, and Texas statutory and common law, the Defendants are liable for their actions and omissions and their employee's actions omissions, including, without limitation, their agents and officers.
- 75. Hector Salas and as a result of the Defendants' deliberate indifference, reckless, wrongful acts and omissions, neglect, and carelessness actions. He would have been entitled to bring this action against Defendants if he had lived.
- 76. A reasonable and competent member of the law enforcement profession would have exercised under similar circumstances duties to: provide adequate medical care, not impose cruel and unusual punishment; Exercise ordinary or reasonable care; exercise the degree of care, skill, and competence that a reasonable officer would exercise.

- 77. The Defendants breached all of their duties. The Defendants' acts and omissions, jointly and severally, proximately caused in any and death to Hector Salas.
- 78. The Plaintiffs seek unliquidated damages within the jurisdictional limits of this Court.

SURVIVAL ELAIM

- 79. The Plaintiffs incorporate by reference all preceding paragraphs of this Complaint as if set forth at length herein in this section. Pursuant to Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code \$1.021 and Texas statutory and common law, the Defendants are liable for their actions and omissions and their employee's actions omissions, including, without limitation, their agents and officers.
- 80. Hector Salas had causes of action for personal injury to his person under the Texas Tort Claim Act, and 42 U.S.C. § 1983 before he died.
- 81. Hector would have been entitled to bring an action for the injury if he had lived, namely pain and suffering, as a result of the negligence and civil rights violations.
- 82. The Defendants' wrongful acts and omissions, jointly and severally, caused Hector's injuries for which the Plaintiffs sue for all damages allowed by law.

DAMAGES

- 83. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference all of the preceding paragraphs.
- 84. Plaintiffs experienced, and in all likelihood will experience, at least great pain and suffering in the past and in the future, great mental anguish in the past and future, loss of enjoyment of life, loss of consortium, loss of financial support and household services, comfort, and love and society.
- 85. Plaintiff seeks exemplary damages
- 86. Plaintiffs have been damaged by the loss of companionship, consortium, and support that would have been provided by Hector Salas, but for his preventable death while in custody.
- 87. Hector Salas suffered great mental anguish and pain in the minutes and hours before his death and such is actionable through his estate and funeral expenses are recoverable as well.

TOLLING PROVISIONS

88. Tolling of the statute of limitations is required. Plaintiffs seek to plead any applicable tolling provisions against any defendant that might assert a bar to suit based on limitations since information involving Hector Salas' death is being withheld relating to the individuals involved, and additional details.

ATTORNEYS' FEES

89. Plaintiff is entitled to recover attorneys' fees and expenses under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 and §1988.

JURY TRIAL

90. Plaintiffs demand a trial by jury on all issue triable to a jury.

PRAYER

91. Plaintiffs pray the Court enter judgment and award damages for Plaintiffs against the Defendants; Plaintiffs pray that the Court finds that Plaintiffs are the prevailing parties in this case and award attorneys' fees and costs and all litigation expenses, pursuant to federal and state law, as noted against the Defendants; Plaintiffs pray that the Court award pre- and post-judgment interest; Plaintiffs pray that the Court award punitive damages against all individually named Defendants to Plaintiffs; Plaintiffs pray that the Court award costs of court; and Plaintiffs pray that the Court grant such other and further relief as appears reasonable and just, to which, Plaintiffs show himself entitled.

The Lewis Law Group, PLLC
By: /s/U.A. Lewis
U.A. Lewis
SBN 24076511
The Lewis Law Group
P.O. Box 27353
Houston, TX 77227
Attorney for Plaintiffs

County Auditor's Form/9999A Harris County, Texas (Rev 04/01)

Official Receipt

101 NO. 876670

Action: NO FEE DOCUMENTS NOT ANSWERS

Case: 201957573-7

PLT: SALAS, HECTOR (SR) (INDIVIDUALLY AND AS REPRESENTA

DEF: CITY OF GALENA PARK

Fee 118 121 179	Description CERTIFIED MAIL SERVICE FEE CITATION WITH 1 COPY ELECTRONIC FILING FEE - DCO	Amount \$75.00 \$16.00 \$2.00
298	SERVICE COPIES	\$7.50
350 379	CONST-PERSONAL SERVICE SERVICE BY MAIL (DCO)	\$75.00 \$15.00

Payment Texas.gov American Express 10037/1/2023	S190.50
Amount Tendered:	\$190.50
Payment Amount:	\$190.50
Amount Applied:	\$190.50
Change Amount:	\$0.00
Received Received Lowis Law Group, Pl.I.C 10029415	•

9950 Westpark Dr. #104 Houston, TX 77063

ONE HUNDRED NINETY AND 50/100 *******************Dollars

Payment Date: 8/26/2019

File Date: 8/19/2019

Orstomer Signature

Assessed By: USER, CONVERSION

By :SYSTEM GENERATED. Texas.gov 101 Validated: 8/26/2019

Manual Receipt Nbr. 0

Comment: Envelope number: 36273401 - 0

\$13-1473663125-11-1473663127

MUA11312317

Case 4:19-cv-04479 Document 1-1 Filed on 11/14/19 in TXSD Page 25 of 55

CIVIL PROCESS REQUEST

8/26/2019 1:25 PM Marilyn Burgess - District Clerk Harris County Envelope No. 36273401 By: Adiliani Solis

Filed: 8/26/2019 1 25 PM

FOR EACH PARTY SERVED YOU MUST FURNISH ONE (1) COPY OF THE PLEADING FOR WRITS FURNISH TWO (2) COPIES OF THE PLEADING PER PARTY TO BE SERVED

TYPE OF INSTRUMENT TO BE SERVED (See Reverse For Types): ORIGINAL PETITION/CITATION FILE DATE OF MOTION: 08 / 19 / 2019 Month/ Day/ Year SERVICE TO BE ISSUED ON (Please List Exactly As The Name Appears In The Pleading To Be Served): 1. NAME: The City of Galena Park ADDRESS: 2000 Candle Hollow Dr. Spring, Tx 77547-2837 AGENT, (if applicable): TYPE OF SERVICE/PROCESS TO BE ISSUED (see reverse for specific type):
SERVICE TO BE ISSUED ON (Please List Exactly As The Name Appears In The Pleading To Be Served): 1. NAME: The City of Galena Park ADDRESS: 2000 Candle Hollow Dr. Spring, Tx 77547-2837 AGENT, (if applicable):
1. NAME: The City of Galena Park ADDRESS: 2000 Candle Hollow Dr. Spring, Tx 77547-2837 AGENT, (if applicable):
TYPE OF SERVICE/PROCESS TO BE ISSUED (see reverse for specific type):
SERVICE DV (d. v. v. v. v.
SERVICE BY (check one): ATTORNEY PICK-UP CIVIL PROCESS SERVER - Authorized Person to Pick-up: MAIL Type of Publication: COURTHOUSE DOOR, or NEWSPAPER OF YOUR CHOICE:
OTHER, explain
2. NAME: Chief Rick Gonzales ADDRESS: 2207 Clinton Dr. Galena Park, Typ547 AGENT, (if applicable): TYPE OF SERVICE/PROCESS TO BE ISSUED (see reverse for specific type): ORIGINAL PETITION/CITATION
SERVICE BY (check one): ATTORNEY PICK-UP CIVIL PROCESS SERVER - Authorized Person to Pick-up: MAIL Type of Publication: COURTHOUSE DOOR, or NEWSPAPER OF YOUR CHOICE: OTHER, Splain
ATTORNEY (OR ATTORNEY'S AGENT) REQUESTING SERVICE: NAME: U.A. LEWIS TEXAS BAR NO./ID NO: _24076511
MAILING ADDRESS: PO BOX 27353 HOUSTON, TX 77227
PHONE NUMBER: 713-570-6555 FAX NUMBER: 713-581-1017 EMAIL ADDRESS: MYATTORNEYATLAW@GMAIL.COM

CAUSE NO. 201957573

RECE	IPT NO.	75.00 CTM V TR # 73663125
PLAINTIFF: ESTATE OF HECTOR SALAS JR		In The 190th
VS. DEFENDANT: CITY OF GALENA PARK		Judicial District Court of Harris County, Texas 190TH DISTRICT COURT Houston, TX
CITAT	ON (CERTIFIED)	
THE STATE OF TEXAS County of Harris		
TO: CITY OF GALENA PARK MAY BE SERVED WHER	EVER THE MAYOR MAY BE F	OUND A
2000 CANDLE HOLLOW DR SPRING TX 7		
Attached is a copy of ORIGINAL PETITIO	<u>N</u>	
This instrument was filed on the $\underline{19th}$ day and court. The instrument attached describ		Move cited cause number
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CAUSE NO. 201957573

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PLAINTIFF: ESTATE OF HECTOR SALAS JR		In The 190th
vs. DEFENDANT: CITY OF GALENA PARK		Judicial District Court of Harris County, Texas 190TH DISTRICT COURT Houston, TX
THE STATE OF TEXAS	ION (CERTIFIED)	
County of Harris		
TO: CITY OF GALENA PARK MAY BE SERVED WHER	EVER THE MAYOR MAY BE FO	UND A
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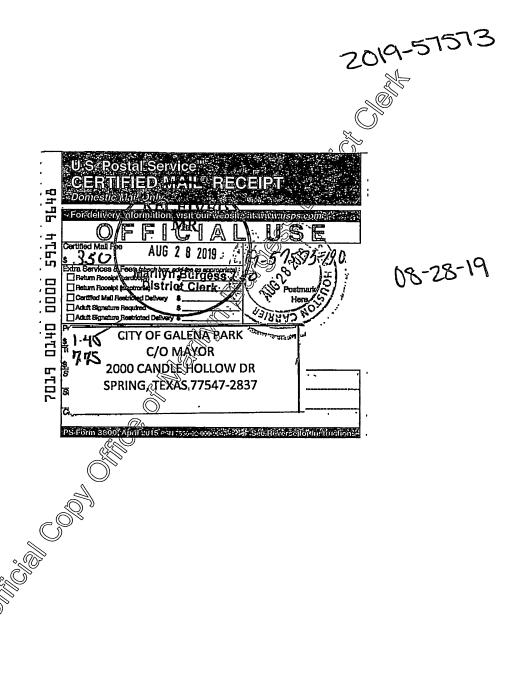
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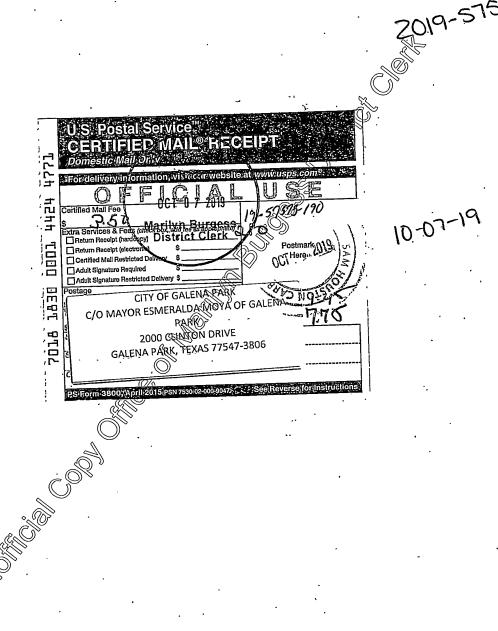
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Case 4:19-cv-04479 Document 1-1 Filed on 11/14/19 in TXSD Page 34 of 55

CIVIL PROCESS REQUEST

10/24/2019 3:42 PM Marilyn Burgess - District Clerk Harris County Envelope No. 37941797 By: Chandra Lawson

FOR EACH PARTY SERVED YOU MUST FURNISH ONE (1) COPY OF THE PLEADING Filed: 10/24/2019 3 42 PM FOR WRITS FURNISH TWO (2) COPIES OF THE PLEADING PER PARTY TO BE SERVED

CASE NUMBER:201957573	CURRENT COURT: 190		
TYPE OF INSTRUMENT TO BE SERVED (See Reverse For Types): ORIGINAL PETITION/CITATION			
	19 / 2019		
1. NAME: <u>Chief Rick Gonzal</u> ADDRESS: <u>8742 Yvonne D</u>	<u>9r.</u>		
AGENT, (if applicable): Houston, Texas 77044-1342 TYPE OF SERVICE/PROCESS TO BE ISSUED (see reverse for specific type):			
SERVICE BY (check one): ATTORNEY PICK-UP CIVIL PROCESS SERVER MAIL Type of Publication:	CONSTABLE - Authorized Person to Pick-up: CERTIFIED MAIL-DISTRCIT CLERK'S OFFICE COURTHOUSE DOOR, or NEWSPAPER OF YOUR CHOICE:		
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ATTORNEY (OR ATTORNEY'S AGENT) REQUESTING SERVICE: NAME: U.A. LEWIS TEXAS BAR NO./ID NO: 24076511			
MAILING ADDRESS: PO BOX 27353 HOUSTON, TX 77227			
PHONE NUMBER: <u>713-570-6555</u> FAX	X NUMBER: <u>713-581-1017</u>		
FMAIL ADDRESS: MYATTORNEYATI AW@GMAIL COM			

Case 4:19-cv-04479 Document 1-1 Filed on 11/14/19 in TXSD Page 35 of 55

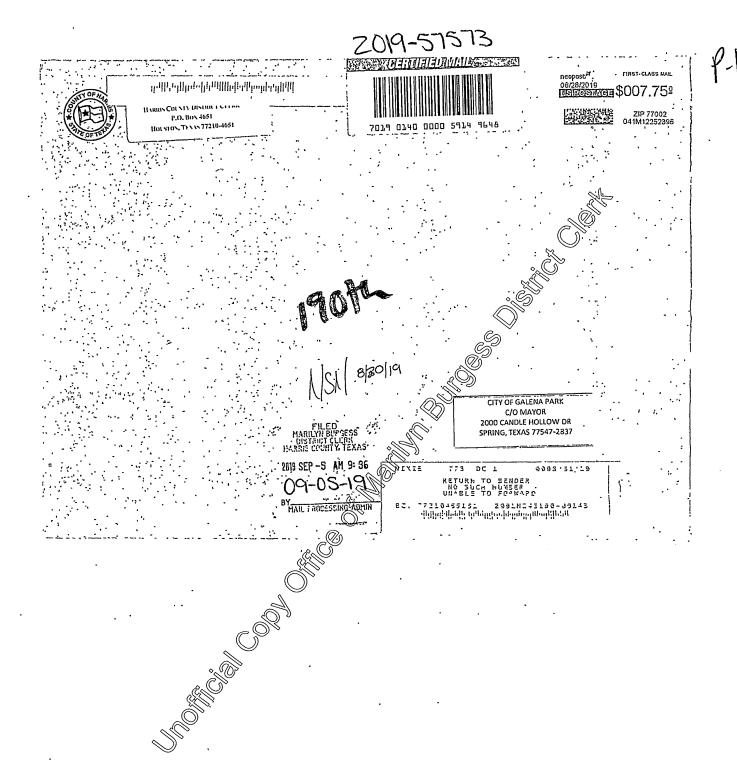
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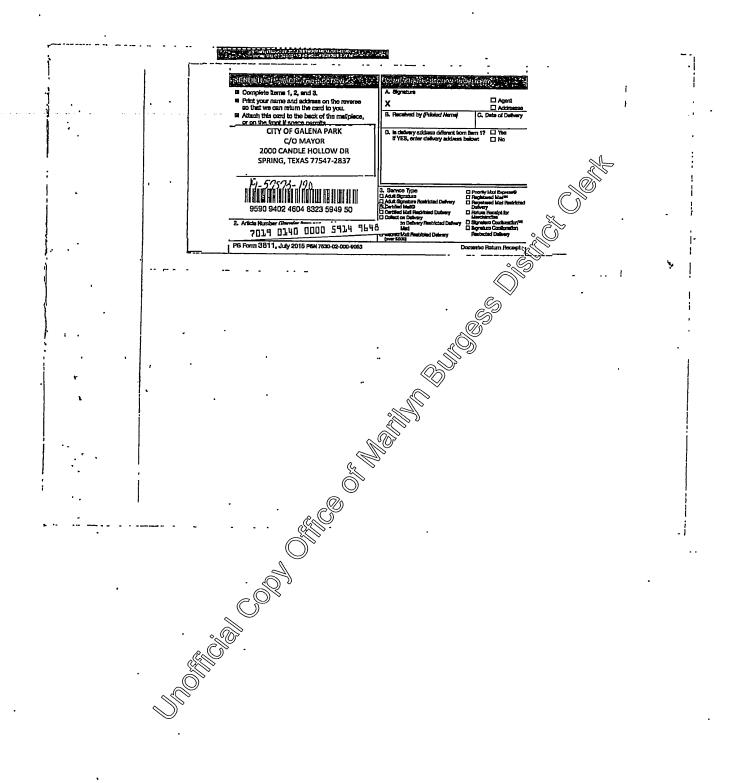
10/4/2019 11:24 AM Marilyn Burgess - District Clerk Harris County Envelope No. 37388907 By: Adiliani Solis

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FILE DATE OF MOTION: <u>08</u> / 19 / 2019		
Month/ Day/ Year		
SERVICE TO BE ISSUED ON (Please List Exactly As The 1. NAME: The City of Galena Park	Name Appears In The Pleading To Be served):	
ADDRESS: 2000 Clinton Drive, Galena Par	k, Tx 77547-3406	
AGENT, (if applicable): c/o Mayor Esmeralda	Moya of Galena Park	
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PHONE NUMBER: <u>713-570-6555</u> FAX NUMBER: <u>713-5</u>	<u>31-1017</u>	
EMAIL ADDRESS: MYATTORNEYATLAW@GMAIL.COM		



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Filed: 8/19/2019 10:24 AM

2019-57573 / Court: 190

CAUSE NO.

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ESTATE OF HECTOR SALAS, JR., § **SALAS** HECTOR SR. representative and individually, ANDREA SILVA individually, and A/N/F for H.S., and A.S., CYNTHIA MONTIEL A/N/F for E.S., Plaintiffs, ٧.

THE CITY OF GALENA PARK, CHIEF RICK GONZALES, and § **DOES 1-5** Defendant.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF

DISTRICT

UNTY, TEXAS

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE OF SAID COURT:

Comes now ESTATE OF HECTOR SALAS, JR., HECTOR SALAS SR., as representative and individually, ANDREA SILVA individually, and as next friend for H.S., and A.S. CYNTHIA MONTIEL as next friend for E.S., (collectively "Plaintiffs" complaining of THE CITY OF GALENA PARK, TEXAS ("Galena Park"); and OFFICER DOE files this, their Original Petition.

INTRODUCTION

- 1. Hector Salas Jr., the father of three, died November 30, 2018, in the City of Galena Park jail due to Galena Park failing to protect, and ignoring the medical and mental healthcare needs of Hector Salas, resulting in his suicide.
- 2. Hector was placed in custody because he was suicidal. His wife, Andrea Salva, called the police because he had taken a handful of pills.
- 3. He was taken to Ben Taub then released. She called them again the next day because he was still suicidal. The jail noted he was suicidal upon intake.
- 4. A surveillance camera captured Salas' suicide attempts and suicide on video.
- 5. He was in the cell alone and for enough time to tear mattress fabric apart into thin strips.
- 6. He created a noose that he put around his neck on one end and the other on the jail cell door.
- 7. He was not successful initially because the mattress fabric strips could not support his weight and broke.
- 8. He was able to try again but was again unsuccessful.
- 9. He made a third suicide attempt, this time he created and used a much thicker mattress fabric strip.

- 10. He tied it to the jail cell door and then placed the open knot end around his neck.
- 11. He used toilet water to cover the floor to cause the floor to be slippery.
- 12. He was successful on the third attempt.
- 13. Jail surveillance cameras captured the incident.
- 14. Galena Park is withholding the video even after the Attorney General's initial ruling that it had to be released.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 15. This Court has jurisdiction over Plaintiffs' state and federal claims, under 28 U.S.C. § 1331 and 2201, 42 U.S.C. § 1983 and 1988, and the Fourth, Eighth, and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution, and supplemental jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1367(a), to hear Plaintiffs' federal law claims.
- 16. Venue is proper in this because the incidents at issue took place in Harris County, Texas.

<u>PARTIES</u>

- 17. Plaintiff, HECTOR SALAS, individually and as Representative of the Estate of Hector Salas Jr.
- 18. Plaintiff, ANDREA SILVA, individually and as next friend for H.S., and A.S.

- 19. Plaintiff, CYNTHIA MONTIEL, as next friend for E.S.
- 20. Defendant, CITY OF GALENA PARK, is and was at all times relevant to this action a governmental entity and is a person under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 and at all times relevant to this case acted under the color of law and may be served with process wherever the mayor may be found.
- 21. Defendant, RICK GONZALES, is and was at all times relevant to this action is a person under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 and at all times relevant to this case acted under the color of law and may be served with process wherever he may be found.
- 22. Defendants, DOES 1-5, is and was at all times relevant to this action is a person under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 and at all times relevant to this case acted under the color of law and may be served with process wherever he or she may be found.

ADDITIONAL FACTS

- 23. 31-year-old Hector Salas Jr. was a father of three, a husband, son, brother, and beloved friend.
- 24. He died on November 30, 2018, in the City of Galena Park jail due to Galena Park failing to protect him, ignoring the medical and mental healthcare needs of Hector Salas.
- 25. Hector was in the custody of Galena Park because he was suicidal.

- 26. His wife, Andrea Salva, called the police because he had taken a handful of pills.
- 27. His wife made it abundantly clear that he had attempted suicide just before he was taken into custody, even saying his goodbyes through the gesture of leaving his personal effects to his family.
- 28. He was taken to Ben Taub then released, without observation or treatment.
- 29. She was forced to call Galena Park again the next day because he was still suicidal. His behavior was not usual.
- 30. Hector was taken into custody by Galena Park.
- 31. The jail noted that he was suicida apon intake.
- 32. He was placed in a cell alone
- 33. He was left alone for enough time to tear mattress fabric apart into thin strips.
- 34. He created a nose that he put around his neck on one end and the other on the jail cell door.
- 35. He tried to strangle himself.
- 36. He was not successful in strangling himself initially because the mattress fabric strips could not support his weight and broke.
- 37. He had time to try again but was again unsuccessful.

- 38. He had time to create and used a much thicker mattress fabric strip.
- 39. He had time to tie his newly created stronger noose strips to the jail cell door and then placed the open knot end around his neck.
- 40. He had time to glaze toilet water over the floor to cause the floor to be slippery.
- 41. He had time to make a third suicide attempt and was successful.
- 42. A surveillance camera captured Salas' suicide attempts and suicide on video.
- 43. According to the medical examiner, the manner of death is suicide by hanging:

A. HANGING:

The body is received with six segments of blue synthetic plastic-type material that have been previously cut:

1. A 49 by 5 inch street bunched together with clear sape at one end and in the middle.

2. A 66 by 30 inch sheet.

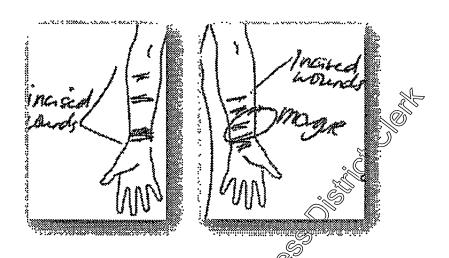
3. A 14 by 1/2 inch strip with two knots.

4. A 12 inch strip ranging in width between 1/4 of an inch and 1/2 of an inch with multiple knots.

5. A 16 by 3/4 of an inch strip with one knot.

6. A 17-1/2 by 1/2 of an inch strip with one knot.

44. Hector Salas Jr. also had incised wounds on both arms from his wrist to his forearms noted and an additional indication of a previous suicide attempt, and more indication that his serious medical need was ignored.



45. Galena Park continued to withhold documents and video footage even after the Attorney General's initial ruling that it had to be released.

CLAIMS

CITY OF GALENA PARK 42 U.S.C. SECTION 1983 CONSTITUTIONAL VIOLATIONS OF FECTOR SALAS'S CIVIL RIGHTS

- 46. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference all of the preceding paragraphs.
- 47. Plaintiffs also bring claims for violations of Hector Salas's Fourth, Eighth and Fourteenth Amendment rights.

Failure to train its officers—an omission—led to a violation of the constitutional right

48. Galena Park and each defendant were acting under color of state law and,

therefore, is liable under 42 U.S.C. § 1983.

- 49. Galena Park is liable under Section 1983 because it deprived Hector Salas of constitutional rights provided by federal law that occurred under color of state law and were caused by its employees, government actors.
- 50. Hector Salas had a right under the Fourth, Eighth, and Fourteenth Amendments of the United States Constitution while incarcerated to be free from indifference to his medical and mental health needs.
- 51. Hector Salas's death while in custody was preventable.
- 52. Galena Park was indifferent to Hector Salas' serious medical needs, mental health needs and protection.
- 53. Defendant Galena Park as a matter of policy, practice, custom and/or procedure did not have adequate staffing, had a practice and custom of not doing rounds, had a custom and practice of not checking to see if detention officers were doing rounds, and failed to provide and maintain adequate equipment to prevent suicide.
- 54. Defendant Galena Park failed to train and failed to adequately supervise its jail detention officers and employees and agents.
- 55. Prior to his death, Hector Salas did not receive adequate medical care for his risk of suicide, and symptoms.

56. His death was due to the acts and omissions of Galena Park and those acts and omissions violated his constitutional right to due process, to be free from unreasonable search and seizure; and right to adequate medical care under the constitution.

Failure-to-protect

57. Galena Park failed to properly and adequately trainits officers to protect its inmates from the risk of serious harm in the form of self-inflicted suicide despite the obvious risk of harm, thereby failing to protect its inmates and deliberately indifferent to Hector's risk of harm.

Failure-to-supervise

58. Galena Park is not responsible based on Respondent Superior rather because it failed to properly supervise its officers in protecting its inmates from the risk of serious harm in the form of self-inflicted suicide despite the known obvious risk of harm an inmate like Hector Salas would pose to himself.

Deliberate indifference to serious-medical-needs

- 59. Galena Park's failure to supervise amounted to deliberate indifference to Hector Salas' medical needs
- 60. Galena Park denied Hector Salas medical care for his serious medical need, thereby resulting in the constitutional violation that caused his death.

Conditions of Confinement

- 61. Galena Park placed Hector Salas in a cell where he could not be observed by others could be alerted to prevent his death.
- 62. Galena park placed Hector Salas in a cell with plastic and other materials he could use to make a noose to assist in his suicide.

CHIEF RICK GONZALEZ

- 63. Chief Rick Gonzalez is not responsible based on Respondent Superior rather because he failed to properly supervise its officers in protecting its immates from the risk of serious harm in the form of self-inflicted suicide despite the known obvious risk of harm an immate like Hector Salas would pose to himself.
- 64. He further failed to train his subordinate officers on protecting inmates from serious harm.
- 65. Chief Gonzalez is and was at all times relevant to this action is a person under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 and at all times relevant to this case acted under the color of law as the chief of the Galena Park police department.

OFFICER DOES' CONSTITUTIONAL VIOLATIONS

Failure to Protect Claims

66. Protecting inmates from the risk of harm from others and themselves and

recognizing a serious medical, including mental health needs, is required training for all jail officers.

- 67. Officer Doe would not be entirely responsible for Salas' death if the City of Galena Park failed to train her on inmate suicide prevention properly, or treatment of inmates with serious medical needs, mental health concerns, and protecting inmates like Hector Salas from a substantial risk of serious harm.
- 68. On November 30, 2018, it was "well established that a risk of suicide by an inmate, like this a serious medical need.
- 69. Officer Doe had individual-specific knowledge of the threat of serious harm by suicide since his wife made it abundantly clear that he had attempted suicide just before he was taken into custody, even saying his goodbyes through the gesture of leaving his personal effects to his family.
- 70. Officer Doe failed to check Hector Salas for a substantial length of time, a general risk that all prisoners in Hector's particular situation faced He should have been on suicide watch while he was awaiting transport to the Harris County Jail or provided mental health treatment.
- 71. Officer Doe should have training in suicide and mental health training, any lack of expertise or experience that might limit Officer Doe's ability to evaluate potential harm and thereby her failure to protec.

72. Despite the obvious risk she disregarded the risk she failed to provide even an essential response of checking on him at all.

WRONGFUL DEATH

- 73. Wrongful Death Statute The Plaintiffs incorporate by reference all preceding paragraphs of this Complaint as if set forth at length herein in this section.
- 74. The Plaintiffs bring this wrongful death action pursuant to the Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code § 71.004 (c). Pursuant to Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code § 71.002, and Texas statutory and common law, the Defendants are liable for their actions and omissions and their employee's actions omissions, including, without limitation, their agents and officers.
- 75. Hector Salas died as result of the Defendants' deliberate indifference, reckless, wrongful acts and omissions, neglect, and carelessness actions. He would have been entitled to bring this action against Defendants if he had lived.
- 76. A reasonable and competent member of the law enforcement profession would have exercised under similar circumstances duties to: provide adequate medical care, not impose cruel and unusual punishment; Exercise ordinary or reasonable care; exercise the degree of care, skill, and competence that a reasonable officer would exercise.

- 77. The Defendants breached all of their duties. The Defendants' acts and omissions, jointly and severally, proximately caused injury and death to Hector Salas.
- 78. The Plaintiffs seek unliquidated damages within the jurisdictional limits of this Court.

SURVIVAL CLAIM

- 79. The Plaintiffs incorporate by reference all preceding paragraphs of this Complaint as if set forth at length herein in this section. Pursuant to Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code § 71.021 and Texas statutory and common law, the Defendants are liable for their actions and omissions and their employee's actions omissions, including, without limitation, their agents and officers.
- 80. Hector Salas had causes of action for personal injury to his person under the Texas Tort Claim Act, and 42 U.S.C. § 1983 before he died.
- 81. Hector would have been entitled to bring an action for the injury if he had lived, namely pain and suffering, as a result of the negligence and civil rights violations.
- 82. The Defendants' wrongful acts and omissions, jointly and severally, caused Hector's injuries for which the Plaintiffs sue for all damages allowed by law.

DAMAGES

- 83. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference all of the preceding paragraphs.
- 84. Plaintiffs experienced, and in all likelihood will experience, a least great pain and suffering in the past and in the future, great mental anguish in the past and future, loss of enjoyment of life, loss of consortium, loss of financial support and household services, comfort, and love and society.
- 85. Plaintiff seeks exemplary damages.
- 86. Plaintiffs have been damaged by the loss of companionship, consortium, and support that would have been provided by Hector Salas, but for his preventable death while in custody.
- 87. Hector Salas suffered great mental anguish and pain in the minutes and hours before his death and such is actionable through his estate and funeral expenses are recoverable as well.

TOLLING PROVISIONS

88. Tolling of the statute of limitations is required. Plaintiffs seek to plead any applicable tolling provisions against any defendant that might assert a bar to suit based on limitations since information involving Hector Salas' death is being withheld relating to the individuals involved, and additional details.

ATTORNEYS' FEES

89. Plaintiff is entitled to recover attorneys' fees and expenses under 42 U.S.C. §

1983 and §1988.

JURY TRIAL

90. Plaintiffs demand a trial by jury on all issues triable to a jury

PRAYER

91. Plaintiffs pray the Court enter judgment and award damages for Plaintiffs against the Defendants; Plaintiffs pray that the Court finds that Plaintiffs are the prevailing parties in this case and award attorneys fees and costs and all litigation expenses, pursuant to federal and state law, as noted against the Defendants; Plaintiffs pray that the Court award prevail individually named Defendants to Plaintiffs; Plaintiffs pray that the Court award costs of court; and Plaintiffs pray that the Court grant such other and further relief as appears reasonable and just, to which, Plaintiffs show himself entitled.

The Lewis Law Group, PLLC By: /s/U.A. Lewis
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Attorney for Plaintiffs

10/25/2019 4:21 PM Marilyn Burgess - District Clerk Harris County Envelope No. 37985183 By: Chandra Lawson Filed: 10/25/2019 4:21 PM



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October 25, 2019

RE: Case No. 201957573

Shandra,

Per our phone conversation, I am submitting this cover letter to accommodate the service request previously submitted (Envelope # 37941797). Please apply the additional service fees to the reference service request, thank you for your time and assistance in the matter.

Gabrielle Strange Legal Assistant gabrielles@thelewislaw.com 713-570-6555 **Harris County Docket Sheet**

2019-57573

COURT: 190th

FILED DATE: 8/19/2019

CASE TYPE: OTHER CIVIL



ESTATE OF HECTOR SALAS JR

Attorney: LEWIS, U. A.

VS.

CITY OF GALENA PARK

Date